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Evening Herald

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1914.

NERO Had Nothing on Villa
When it Comes to Letting
Her Flicker.

GUSTAV BAUCH, AMERICAN CITIZEN, MURDERED BY GENERAL VILLA IN JUAREZ

WASHINGTON IS CONVINCED HE WAS KILLED BY BANDIT

Villa Advances Theory That Bauch When Released from Jail was "Murdered by His Enemies."

BENTON REMAINS ROT WHILE BULL FIGHT RAGES

Delay in Departure of Investigating Commission for Chihuahua Said to be Due to Carranza's Orders.

(By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.)

Washington, March 2.—Fresh reports that Gustav Bauch, an American citizen, was killed at Juarez, comes close in the complications of the Benton case, surrounded the Mexican situation today with further complexities. Carranza, as head of the constitutionalists, has been called on for a satisfactory explanation of Bauch's disappearance and it will be pointed out to the rebel chieftain that failure to protect all foreigners will be likely to lead to grave complications.

Further representations for a speedy clearing up of the Benton killing have gone forward. Although deferring to Carranza's wish to be consulted directly in diplomatic affairs, it was being impressed on the rebel chief today that formalities must not be permitted to stand in the way of complete protection to foreigners.

BENTON COMMISSION WAITING START ORDER

El Paso, Tex., March 2.—The permanent halting of the Benton investigating committee as it was about to take a train, the sudden appearance in this city today of Marion Letcher, American consul at Chihuahua, and General Villa's admission of his opinion that Gustav Bauch, an American, was "murdered by his enemies," threw the refugee colony here into a high state of excitement today.

Letcher came up on a special train and at once went into conference with Zach C. Cobb, collector of customs and closely identified with Secretary Bryan in Texas politics and with George C. Carothers, special agent of the state department.

Telegrams to Washington were dispatched but their contents were not made known here. Members of the investigating committee did not know whether they were to proceed to Chihuahua or not. They have only a slight hope that such a mission would be productive of evidence as to the manner of Benton's death, for belief is general that if the body is not in an advanced state of decomposition it probably has been mutilated by quicklime or some other chemical.

Letcher's train was held at Juarez ready for his own use for the return trip and to see the Benton committee if it is determined that this part of the program shall be carried on.

LETCHER PREPARED TO ESCORT THE COMMISSION

El Paso, Tex., March 2.—Marion Letcher, American consul at Chihuahua, Mexico, arrived here today on a special train provided by General Villa to escort to Chihuahua the commission which is to examine and examine the body of William S. Benton, the British citizen executed in Juarez by Villa's orders.

Mr. Letcher, who will act as advisor to the commission expected to return to Chihuahua on the special train but the exact time of departure depends on contingencies that may arise after his conference with the commissioners. According to Letcher it is planned to go immediately to the cemetery where Villa says Benton is buried upon arrival in Chihuahua. After the body has been examined by the two United States army surgeons in the presence of the American and British representatives, the commission will return to El Paso to formulate its findings.

"I am simply acting as an escort to the commission," said Letcher today, "to give them every facility for making the examination."

"Have you seen the grave where Benton's body is supposed to be buried?" he was asked.

"No. I only have Villa's word that it is buried in the Pantheon de la Reina. The grave has not been pointed out to me."

The testimony of one witness already has been taken at Chihuahua by the British vice consul. It will be presented to the committee. The witness said he accompanied Benton from El Paso on the street car to Juarez on the day Benton was executed. Thegist of his testimony was that Benton made no threats against Villa's life, but on the contrary was sick that day and announced he merely was going to ask Villa for information regarding

his ranch, the use of which he had been deprived of by the rebels.

VILLA THINKS BAUCH "KILLED BY ENEMIES"

Chihuahua, Mex., Feb. 2.—General Villa today indicated his belief that Gustav Bauch, the American, is dead when he said that Bauch was liberated at Juarez and "doubtless was assassinated by some of his enemies."

Villa said Bauch had many enemies and added "of course I can't be held to blame for that."

FRIENDS NOW CERTAIN VILLA MURDERED BAUCH

El Paso, Tex., March 2.—General Villa's expressed belief that Gustav Bauch, who was arrested at Juarez as a spy two weeks ago, was the victim of an assassin, occasioned no surprise here, where the German-American sister, Mrs. J. M. Patterson, and others interested in the case, have been resigned to the conclusion that Bauch was slain at Juarez a week ago last Friday. They scout the personal enemy theory, however.

Repeated assertions have been made by certain Juarez rebels talking confidentially to friends on this side of the border that Bauch was executed, and the stories all agree on the date of the execution, which was the day that General Villa departed for Chihuahua.

Mrs. Patterson asserted that her brother had no enemies in the world. He was a locomotive engineer and not of shrewdness of character which would recommend him to anyone desiring to employ a spy. Mrs. Patterson said. His statement before the alleged court martial that he went to Juarez to "get drunk" was accepted by Mrs. Patterson as the truth.

WHY BOTHER ABOUT BENTON WHEN FULL FIGHTS ABOUNDED?

Chihuahua, Mex., March 2.—General Villa said today that the orders delaying the Benton investigation committee which was halted at Juarez yesterday, were issued by General Carranza, as head of the constitutionalists, has been called on for a satisfactory explanation of Bauch's disappearance and it will be pointed out to the rebel chieftain that failure to protect all foreigners will be likely to lead to grave complications.

Further representations for a speedy clearing up of the Benton killing have gone forward. Although deferring to Carranza's wish to be consulted directly in diplomatic affairs, it was being impressed on the rebel chief today that formalities must not be permitted to stand in the way of complete protection to foreigners.

Persons in a position to obtain reliable information expressed the opinion today that the body of William S. Benton, if it is buried here, will have been long in the ground to disclose much to the commission which is to examine it. It has been hinted in official circles that the body has probably been subjected to some chemical action to obliterate evidence.

If General Villa knows where the body is buried he has not told anyone.

Why the body was brought so far from the border and when and how it was buried are subjects upon which Villa refused to talk. None of the foreign consuls have been able to learn the whereabouts of the grave.

The pantheon de la Reina, where Villa says the body was interred, is about two blocks from the United States consulate and only one block from Villa's residence.

Villa says the body was interred, of fresh earth and one of these is the grave of Abraham Gonzales, former governor, who was executed by order of Huerta. An attendant at the grave yard said no other burials had taken place there since Villa returned from Juarez.

General Villa while attending bull fights, cock fights and balls, has shown indifference to international complications arising from the Benton execution and once said he "had cut the wires on the subject," meaning he did not wish to discuss it further. He already has given versions of the events which led up to the killing of Benton, some versions varying in details. A representative of a foreign government would not feel obliged to go beyond an investigation of the facts through its own consular representative.

The president was referring, it was presumed, to speeches in congress demanding radical action of some kind or armed intervention, which he seemed to deplore.

British Views Awaited.

The White House view is that, strictly speaking, there is no right of international law by which the United States could insist on acting for Great Britain, although the American government has been asked by the powers to use its good offices for the protection of foreigners. If, however, England should not ask the United States to pursue the matter further complications with Carranza, the American government would not feel obliged to go beyond an investigation of the facts through its own consular representative.

The next step, it would appear from the official viewpoint here, is some intimation from Great Britain as to how far she expects the United States to push the Bentos case. On the other hand there is every reason to believe that Carranza will be expected in the near future to give the American government further assurances that all foreigners, regardless of whether their governments have recognized Huerta or not, will be safe in northern Mexico.

Secretary Bryan concurred in the suggestion to dismiss the situation with the house foreign committee and probably will enlighten some of the congressmen on Mexican affairs privately. Efforts to head off any agitation in congress that the executive departments might not be embarrassed in dealing with the affair, were evident.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, and Senor Basso, the Spanish ambassador, conferred with Secretary Bryan, but the subject of the discussion was not divulged. Basso's latest note asking the United States to reconsider the lifting of the arms embargo was expected here today.

The appointment to London of Covarrubias, it was pointed out, would make possible dealings with the insurgents of Mexico by the British foreign office.

CARRANZA APPOINTS AN AGENT IN LONDON

Nogales, Sonora, March 2.—Miguel Covarrubias, who held a diplomatic position under the Madero government, was appointed today as confidential agent of the Mexican Constitutionalists at London. It was believed that the discussion of General Carranza had connection with the recent international representations in the case of William S. Benton, the British subject executed at Juarez, Mexico.

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BIG BATTLE REPORTED AROUND PIEDRAS NEGRAS

El Paso, Tex., March 2.—Mexican federal authorities last night ordered a field hospital opened near Rio Moline, fifty miles west of Piedras Negras, on an official report that an all-day battle had raged there in which a number had been killed.

Two hundred dragoons under Major Gómez engaged 150 rebels commanded by Dolores Túroa.

No Quorum in Peru.

Lima, Peru, March 2.—The Peruvian government board today invited another extraordinary session of congress for March 14. There was no quorum at yesterday's session.

Ashurst Wins a Point.

Washington, March 2.—By a vote of 47 to 14, the senate today refused to table a motion by Senator Ashurst to proceed with consideration of the constitutional amendment to extend suffrage to women. The motion to succeed Carl B. Gray, resigned.

Bill to Head Bill Bonds.

St. Paul, Minn., March 2.—Louis W. Hill, chairman of the board of directors of the Great Northern railroad, will become president of the road to succeed Carl B. Gray, resigned.

PLAIN TALK BY PRESIDENT ON THE MEXICAN SITUATION

Remember Our Sons and Brothers Must do the Fighting, Significant Expression From Chief Executive

SHARP REBUKE TO THE HOT HEADS IN CONGRESS

No One Can Question Power of United States to do What Must be Done in Mexico When Times Arrives.

(By Leased Wire to Evening Herald.)

Washington, March 2.—That General Villa has acknowledged the authority of General Carranza as his chief and will not permit the American commission to examine the body of William S. Benton until the Washington government has consulted General Carranza, was the explanation made by President Wilson today of the latest phase of the Mexican situation.

The president told callers that the desire of the commissioners to get further instructions from Washington, as well as orders from General Villa himself, has necessitated a postponement, but Mr. Wilson takes it for granted that the commissioners will start in a few days.

Asked whether in view of the new development, a change of policy was intended by the United States immediately, the president pointed out that a country of the size and power of the United States could afford to wait just as long as it pleased; that nobody doubted its power and nobody doubted that Huerta was eventually to resign; that there need be no hesitation in forming the judgment that the United States wished to accomplish in Mexico would be accomplished, but that those people who were in haste to have things done were forgetting what they could have to do themselves; that they would have to contribute brothers and sons and sweethearts to do it if they wanted something done right away. If they were willing to wait, the president indicated, such a step might not be necessary.

The president was referring, it was presumed, to speeches in congress demanding radical action of some kind or armed intervention, which he seemed to deplore.

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